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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/518,650	03/03/2000	Dale C McCarthy	CTI-103	5794

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 05/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/518,650

Applicant(s)

MCCARTHY, DALE C

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed February 21, 2002 in which Claim 2 has been amended, has been placed of record in the file as Paper No. 10.
2. The indicated allowability of claims 3-11, 13-14, and 20 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Horak (U.S. Patent No. 3,744,007) and Nikitas (U.S. Patent No. 4,408,822). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitation "an electrical cable" in Lines 1, 3, 7, and 8. It is unclear if the cables are the same or if the claim is reciting different cables.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "a coaxial cable" in Lines 5, 11, 16, and 17. It is unclear if the cables are the same or if the claim is reciting different cables.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "an insulated electrical conductor" in Lines 1, and 3. It is unclear if the conductors are the same or if the claim is reciting different conductors.

Claim 15 recites the limitation "an insulated electrical conductor" in Lines 1, and 3. It is unclear if the conductors are the same or if the claim is reciting different conductors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-21, 25 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horak (U.S. Patent No. 3,744,007). With regard to Claims 1-2, 4-12, 15-18, and 31-36, Horak discloses an electrical connector (10), comprising: a housing (12) having a first end and an axial bore (where (14) is located); at least one clamping arm (16) in the bore (where (14) is located) of the housing (12) having a first end; and a cylindrical compression cap (14) having an end wall apertured to receive an electrical coaxial cable (26) and having a sidewall with an outer periphery sized for engaging an inner periphery of the housing (12), wherein once the first end of the at least one clamping arm (16) penetrates an outer insulation layer (26d) of the electrical cable (26)

and the end of the electrical cable (26) being inserted into the first end of the housing (12), the cap (14) can be inserted into the first end of the housing (12) such that the at least one clamping arm (16) is secured in place, an insulator plug (12a) having a center aperture (between (12a)), and the cylindrical compression cap (14) having a sidewall sized at its outer periphery for engaging the inner periphery of the housing (12). See Figs. 1-3.

With regard to Claim 3, Horak discloses the pointed end (28) of the conductive clamp (16) being ramp shaped and the end of the side wall of the cylindrical compression cap (14) being complementarily ramp shaped so that upon mutual engagement longitudinally along the axis of the housing (12), the pointed end of the conductive clamp (16) being driven radially toward the axis of the housing (12). See Figs. 1-3.

With regard to Claim 13, Horak discloses the first end of the at least one clamping arm (16) having a beveled edge, wherein the first end of the at least one clamping arm (16) is caused to penetrate the outer insulation layer (26d). See Figs. 1-3.

With regard to Claim 14 and 20-21, Horak discloses the first end of the at least one clamping arm (16) having a beveled edge (16b), wherein as the cap (14) is inserted into the first end of the housing (12) a beveled edge (14b) of the cap (14) pushes the beveled edge (16b) of the at least one clamping arm (16) such as to cause the first end of the at least one clamping arm (16) to penetrate into the outer insulation layer (26d) of the insulated conductor (26). See Figs. 1-3.

With regard to Claim 19, Horak discloses the at least one clamping arm (16) being integral with the housing (12). See Figs. 1-3.

With regard to Claim 25, Horak discloses the housing (12) being adapted to receive the end of the insulated electrical conductor (26) which has a portion of the inner insulation layer (26d) and center conductor (26a) protruding from an otherwise flush end of the insulated electrical conductor (26), wherein the portion of the center conductor (26a) protrudes from the protruding portion of the inner insulation layer (13) such that the protruding portion of the inner insulation layer (26d) acts to electrically insulate the center conductor (26a) from the housing (12) and the protruding center conductor protrudes into a second end of the connector (10). See Figs. 1-3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horak (U.S. Patent No. 3,744,007) in view of Nikitas (U.S. Patent No. 4,408,822). With regard to Claim 22, Horak discloses the claimed invention as described above except for the cap threadably engaging the housing.

Nikitas discloses a coaxial cable connector (10) having a cap (44) threadably engaging a housing (30). See Figs. 1-3.

Thus, it would have been obvious with ordinary skill in the art to modify the electrical connector of Horak by including a cap threadably engaging the housing as taught in Nikitas to improve the connection between the cable, the housing and the cap.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 23-24 and 26-32 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, a beveled ring, a compression ring, an insulation section attached to the housing and having an aperture, an electrically conductive pin located in the aperture, the pin having a hollow portion protruding into the first end of the connector, the cap having at least one protrusion which provides strain relief when the cap is inserted into the first end while the end of the insulated electrical connector is inserted in the first end of the connector.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 15-19, 22, 25-27 and 30-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

EAL
April 28, 2002

P. Bradley
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800